United Nations S/2015/387

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 May 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 28 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the representative of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ib **Petersen**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-08442 (E) 040615

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 28 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, it is my grave responsibility to draw to your attention the worsening humanitarian crisis in Syria and the urgent need for decisive Security Council action to stop the killing of innocent civilians and alleviate humanitarian suffering, including through the imposition of a no-fly zone.

Since the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator last briefed the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria, the violence perpetrated by Syrian regime forces and terrorist extremist groups has worsened. Syrian regime forces continued to attack civilian areas and facilities, including hospitals and schools, in Idlib, Aleppo, Damascus, eastern Ghouta, Homs and Dar'a, killing men, women and children. Syrian regime helicopters continued to deploy chlorine gas in civilian occupied neighbourhoods, including in Saraqib, Idlib, on 2 May and Janoudieh, Kansafrah and Kafr Batiekh on 7 May (for a more detailed overview of Syrian regime atrocities, see enclosure). As a direct result of the Syrian regime's indiscriminate aerial bombardment, a total of 828 Syrians were killed, representing 45 per cent of the 1,849 Syrians killed by Syrian regime forces and extremist terrorist groups since the Emergency Relief Coordinator last briefed the Council, on 24 April 2015.

Syrian regime forces also continued to prevent and obstruct the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid to Syrians in need, as a result of which 12.2 million Syrians remained in need of humanitarian assistance and over 422,000 people remained under siege. As in prior months, Syrian regime forces repeatedly removed medical equipment and supplies from humanitarian aid convoys. On 22 May, anti-regime forces in Idlib posted video of boxes of relief supplies recovered in the Mastouma military base, bearing the logos of international aid agencies, including those of the World Food Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund. The boxes had been confiscated by Syrian regime forces, who continue to pursue a campaign of depriving civilians of food, water and medical care.

As Syrian authorities continued their assault on Syrian civilians, terrorist extremist groups represented by ISIL perpetrated new atrocities, including in Deir-Ezzor province, the Yarmouk refugee camp and Palmyra, detaining, torturing and executing civilians, including women and children. The atrocities perpetrated by ISIL were once again facilitated and exacerbated by Syrian regime forces. In the 2,000 year-old city of Palmyra, classified by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a World Heritage Site, regime forces refused to allow civilians safe passage, as ISIL terrorists raided the ancient city. Palmyra was made even more vulnerable when officers abandoned their command, leaving civilians to fend for themselves. In both Palmyra and the Yarmouk refugee camp, Syrian aerial forces indiscriminately bombarded civilian occupied areas. On 28 April and 1 May, regime forces launched air and missile attacks in the Yarmouk refugee camp, killing at least 12 civilians. On 26 May, regime aircraft dropped bombs in the areas surrounding the ancient ruins of Palmyra, resulting in the destruction of residential buildings and the deaths of at least 15 civilians, including women and children.

The atrocities perpetrated by Syrian regime forces and ISIL terrorists violate international humanitarian and international human rights law, including Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014), which demanded that Syrian authorities cease their "indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas, including shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of barrel bombs, and methods of warfare which are of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering". The atrocities perpetrated by Syrian authorities can and must be stopped through the resolve and determination of the Security Council and its constituent members. The Syrian Coalition therefore calls on the Security Council to:

I. **Protect civilians through the imposition of a no-fly zone**. Indiscriminate aerial bombardment is the leading cause of civilian death in Syria. A no-fly zone would save lives, deter the use of chemical weapons, alleviate suffering and create the conditions needed to begin a political process.

II. **Demand access for the United Nations to Syria's besieged areas, with or without regime consent**. More than 440,000 Syrians live in besieged areas. The Security Council should demand free access to all besieged areas, so that food, water and urgently needed medical care can reach those who need it.

III. **Demand greater transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance**. Throughout the course of the Syrian crisis, there have been multiple reports that aid kits destined for civilians and delivered by aid agencies are stolen by Syrian regime militias. The United Nations must do more to prevent Assad's forces from diverting life-saving assistance, including by calling on the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to publicize its methodology regarding the administration and delivery of humanitarian aid, including that distributed through its partner in Syria, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

IV. **Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court**. Syrian regime forces and terrorist extremist terrorist groups such as ISIL continue to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity with impunity. A referral to the International Criminal Court would end impunity, deter further atrocities and bring justice to victims.

The actions I have outlined will save lives and alleviate the suffering of my people. They will also enable the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to restore peace and stability to Syria. As the Under-Secretary-General, Valerie Amos, embarks on her final days in office, I urge you to act on her appeal to match the scale of the Syrian crisis with an equally bold and courageous response. As she stated in her previous remarks to the Security Council on Syria, "the failure to stop the violence has undermined the credibility of this Council and eroded confidence in the international community to take its responsibilities seriously". On behalf of all the people of Syria, I urge you to heed her warnings and take the actions necessary to save the lives of my people.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
Special Representative to the United Nations

Enclosure

Syrian regime non-compliance with Security Council resolution 2139 (2014)

1. **Paragraph 3**: all parties immediately cease attacks against civilians and the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas.

Violation: Syrian regime's indiscriminate use of aerial weapons and barrel bombs

Since 1 January 2015, Syrian regime forces conducted more than 12,560 air raids, using warplanes and explosive barrel bombs. Helicopters dropped more than 5,874 barrel bombs in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, al-Hasakah, Deir Ezzor, al-Raqqa, al-Quneitra, al-Suwaydaa, Daraa, Idlib and Lattakia. Among the aerial attacks conducted at the end of April and throughout the month of May are the following:

24 April	Regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the town of Kafar Zita in the north of Hama and on the township of Kensabba in the northern countryside of Lattakia. As a result of barrel bombs dropped on the town of Taftanaz, 10 people were wounded, mostly children, and one woman died.
24 April	Barrel bombs were dropped on the town of al-Na'imah in Daraa province, injuring civilians. Two barrels were also dropped in Daraa al-Balad.
25 April	Explosive barrels were dropped on Beni Zaid, al-Sakhour, Karam al-Jabal, Hanano housing, al-Layramoun and al-Sha'ar neighbourhoods, wounding three people in al-Sakhour. Barrel bombs were also dropped on al-Enkawi, al-Amiqa and al-Manara villages in Hama province.
25 April	Warplanes raided al-Ghab valley with several air strikes, accompanied by 32 explosive barrels in the north-western countryside of Hama.
26 April	The regime conducted 227 air strikes across the country, 118 of which were explosive barrels, using warplanes and helicopters. In total more than 100 civilians were killed or wounded, in addition to severe damage on civilian infrastructure and buildings, leading to the displacement of thousands.
27 April	Two barrel bombs were dropped from helicopters on Bostan al-Qaser and a barrel was dropped on the Old Aleppo in Aleppo province. Another 11 explosive barrels fell on areas of Daraya city in Rif Dimashq province.
28 April	In Idlib province, following an aerial attack on the village of Jozef al-Zaweyi Mountain, six people, including four children and one woman, were killed. Three people, including two women, were killed by barrel bombs dropped by helicopters on the town of Saraqeb. Following the aerial bombardment of the town of Zebdin in Rif Dimashq province and several strikes in Deir-Ezzor province, six civilians were killed, many others were wounded.

29 April	Air strikes in Aleppo province wounded or killed more than 60 people. A barrel bomb dropped by a helicopter killed at least five people in the al-Fardous neighbourhood of Aleppo, including one child. 13 more barrel bombs were dropped on Yarmouk refugee camp south of Damascus. Following air strikes in Idlib, at least 10 civilians were killed, five of whom were children.
30 April	Aerial bombardment using barrels on Qadi Askar neighbourhood in Aleppo province killed one man and wounded others.
1 May	Regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the city of Bennesh and towns and villages of Saraqib, Bsames, Kafar Haya, Ihsem, Mere'yan, Iblin and al-Rami. Four civilians, two of whom were children, died from a barrel bomb attack on the town of Taftanaz.
2 May	Helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the towns of al-Harrah and Nemer in Daraa province. 10 barrel bombs were dropped on Yarmouk camp from regime aircraft. At least 13 civilians were killed by airstrikes on Deir-Ezzor city, including six children. In Aleppo province, 10 civilians, including three children, were killed by shelling from warplanes.
3 May	In Idlib province, helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the villages of al-Rami and Sarjah in al-Zaweyi Mountain, the township of al-Taman'ah and on the outskirts of the cities of Ma'arret al-Nu'man and Bennesh. A child died of wounds as a result of an aerial bombardment on the town of Jozef on 28 April. In Aleppo, a barrel bomb killed at least 10 people near a school in the Seif al-Dawla neighbourhood.
3 May	Seven civilians, including four children, were killed and at least eight civilians were wounded by an explosive barrel targeting a teaching centre in Aleppo province. The bomb exploded during examinations time, decimating a part of the teaching centre.
5 May	Regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the city of Khan Sheikhoun, killing three people and wounding others. 13 civilians, including four women, were killed by barrel bombs on the village of al-Sharakeh in Hama province. In Hama province, a barrel bomb killed at least nine people in the village of Shawka.
11 May	Helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the ISIL-held city of al-Bab, killing at least four civilians. Eight children and four women were killed by aerial bombardment on al-Qenia area in Jesr al-Shughour countryside in Idlib province, with no less than 20 other civilians seriously wounded.
13 May	In Aleppo province, regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs near a bus station in al-Haj Bridge area in the city of Aleppo, killing 47 civilians and burning most of the corpses, in addition to wounding 30 others, with several people still in critical condition. More explosive barrel bombs were dropped in an area near a school in Khelsa town, Zetan and al-Hader towns, killing 27 civilians, including 11 children and three women.

14 May	Air strikes by regime warplanes in the south of Aleppo province killed 39 civilians, including 17 children and three women. The aerial bombardment wounded dozens of others, some of them critically.
15 May	Four civilians were killed and 15 were wounded by aerial bombardment on Ein Terma in Rif Dimashq province. In Aleppo province, 14 civilians, including four children and two women, were killed and 30 civilians were wounded owing to air strikes by the regime. In Hama province, five civilians, including a child and two women, were killed by a barrel bomb dropped from a helicopter on the village of al-Amqeyyi in Sahel al-Ghab. Aerial bombardment on Kafar Awid and Saraqib towns in Idlib province killed 48 civilians, including nine children and eight women. Between 40 and 100 people were killed by a barrel bomb dropped on a bakery in Manbij.
16 May	In Idlib province, regime warplanes targeted a market in the town of Saraqib, killing 11 civilians.
19 May	Two children were killed by explosive barrels targeting a shelter in Kafr Zita in Hama province, with 15 barrel bombs dropped on al-Latamina. 22 civilians were killed following regime air strikes on Darkoush town in Idlib province.
20 May	In Aleppo province, a barrel bomb dropped on the neighbourhood of al-Qattanah in old Aleppo killed seven civilians, including three children and two women.
21 May	A regime aviation bomb was dropped on Dael in Daraa, killing two people.
22 May	An explosive barrel killed 12 civilians, three children and nine women, in Andan town, north of Aleppo.
22-25 May	Barrel bombs dropped by pro-Assad forces in Deir-Ezzor killed at least 46 civilians, of whom the majority were women and children.
24 May	Two barrel bombs were dropped from regime aircraft on Al Sukari, killing at least six civilians, including one woman and 3-year-old Musa Abdullah Al A'raj.
25 May	Regime aviation dropped a barrel bomb on the local market in Tal Al Daman in Aleppo, killing six civilians and damaging civilian targets.
26 May	Helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the city of al-Rastan, north of Homs province, killing at least one child and wounding others. Barrels were also dropped on the city of Talbisah, killing one man. Three victims, including a child and a woman, died from a regime aviation barrel bomb dropped on Burj Al Azawi.

Violation: Syrian regime use of chlorine gas

Since mid-March, over 35 barrel bomb attacks were reported in which chlorine gas was used.

26 April	The Syrian regime conducted a chlorine gas attack at 10 p.m. in the Hwash village of Hama countryside. The chemical attack left 26 injured, including one 2-year-old toddler. On the same day, a barrel bomb filled with gas was dropped on Kafaraweed in the countryside of Idlib province. And another one on Mansorah village in Ghab plain, Hama.
28 April	Regime forces Jropped barrel bombs loaded with poisoned gas on Karsa'a, a village in the countryside of Idlib. 10 suffocation cases were reported in Karsa'a and three suffocation victims in Korin.
29 April	Syrian regime aircraft dropped two barrel bombs containing deadly chlorine gas on a medical clinic in Saraqib, a suburb of Idlib, at 3 a.m. local time. The 12 victims present at the site, including one baby, suffered symptoms including suffocation and required immediate medical attention. The same day, Syrian regime forces launched chemical attacks using two barrel bombs in the western countryside of Hama.
1 May	Five barrel bombs filled with chlorine gas were dropped by helicopters on Qulaydin village in Ghab plain, Idlib.
1 May	Barrel bombs filled with chlorine gas were dropped on Saraqib. The second attack on Saraqib in the last couple of days killed 2-year-old Mutee Jalal and injured more than 70 people, primarily children.
2 May	Helicopters dropped 2 explosive barrel bombs with chlorine gas on Saraqib town in Idlib province. More than 70 civilians, including children, were wounded and suffered suffocation after inhaling gas from the bombs. A 6-month-old baby, Mustafa Hag Ali, was killed from the effects of the chlorine along with his father, Ahmed Mustafa Hag Ali.
3 May	Barrel bombs containing chemical gases were dropped on Eblien and in Jabalpur Zawiyeh in Idlib.
7 May	Regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs with chemical gas on the city of Ma'arret al-Nu'man and villages of Basames, Kansafrah, Kafar Batikh, al-Janoudiyyi and al-Bashiriyyi in Idlib province. The bombs were reported as falling but not hearing a sound when exploding, which is common for chlorine-filled barrels. Victims of the attacks treated in nearby hospitals showed symptoms of shortness of breath, severe coughs and asphyxiation.
15 May	19 people experienced respiratory problems following a barrel bomb filled with chlorine gas dropped on Mishmishan village in Idlib.

19 May	Barrel bombs filled with chlorine gas were dropped on former regime stronghold Jisr al-Shughour, killing nine people and injuring over 1,000. More than 20 civil defence workers were wounded in rescue operations. Most of the victims came into hospitals experiencing acute respiratory problems and burning, bloodshot eyes.

2. **Paragraphs 8 and 10**: all parties must immediately cease attacks against medical facilities and other civilian objects as well as medical personnel, and prioritize the fullest possible medical attention for those in need. Further demands that all parties demilitarize medical facilities, school and other civilian facilities.

Violation: Syrian regime attacks on medical facilities and medical staff and militarization of medical facilities

Following attacks on or near medical facilities, only 47 per cent of Syria's public hospitals and health centres are today partially functioning, while an estimated 44 per cent are out of service. Since the beginning of the conflict, over 599 doctors and medical personnel and 127 public health-care workers have been killed. There have been 224 attacks on 175 separate medical facilities since the start of the conflict. Since 2011, substantial damage to pharmaceutical plants has led to a 65-70 per cent decline in the domestic production of medicines and medical supplies, while sanctions limit imports.

In the month of April alone, there were reports of at least 14 separate attacks by regime forces on medical facilities in Idlib, Aleppo, Damascus, Deir ez-Zor, Hama and Hasakeh governorates, seven of which were performed using barrel bombs.

27 April	In Deir-Ezzor city, regime airplanes attacked a children's hospital, killing five civilians, including two children and two women.
1 May	Regime members remain fortified in the national hospital on the southern western outskirts of the city of Jeser al-Shagourm, which provoked deadly clashes and air raids around the hospital.
7 May	Warplanes bombarded a clinic area in al-Bolel town, east of Deir-Ezzor, killing three civilians, including a nurse. An attack on a hospital in Boqros town near al-Miadin wounded several civilians.
10 May	22 air strikes committed by regime warplanes targeted the area around a national hospital west of Jesr al-Shughour. 250 regime soldiers are currently besieged in the hospital, which is surrounded by armed groups.
12 May	In Aleppo province, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on an ambulatory centre in the neighbourhood of Jeb el-Qebbi, causing huge material damage to the centre and its vehicles.
22 May	Two people died from suffocation following the dropping of 3 barrel bombs filled with poisonous gas from regime aircraft on Tadmur in Homs. Another case of suffocation was reported in Jroud Flaitta in Rif Dimashq province, following the dropping of a poisoned gas barrel by the regime.

24 May Regime warplanes fired missiles on a field hospital in Al Basheeriya, almost completely destroying it and leaving it out of service. Two barrel bombs are dropped on a hospital in Kafr Zaita, killing at least one civilian and one member of the medical staff.

3. **Paragraphs 5, 6 and 7**: all parties must immediately lift sieges of populated areas and allow unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid. All parties must promptly allow United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners safe and unhindered access to populations in need.

Violation: Syrian regime continues to besiege civilian communities

An estimated 422,000 Syrians currently reside in besieged areas and 4.8 million in hard-to-reach areas inside Syria. Out of these, 167,500 are besieged by regime forces in eastern Ghouta and Darayya, where they suffer from starvation and a lack of medical care. On 26 April, in the city of Doma in Rif Dimashq province, a child died due to shortage of medicines.

Access to medical supplies and equipment continues to be restricted and its timely delivery is severely hindered by regime-imposed limitations. In the month of April, over 34,000 Syrians were deprived of treatment as a consequence of hindrance or confiscation by regime forces.

4. **Paragraphs 1 and 11**: [The Security Council] strongly condemns the arbitrary detention and torture of civilians in Syria, notably in prisons and detention facilities (...) and demands the immediate end of these practices.

Violation: Syrian regime continues to torture prisoners

Over the past four years, over 11,427 deaths have been documented, resulting from systematic torture by the Assad regime. Torture has become a regular occurrence since the outbreak of the crisis in 2011, and is only one of the causes of the high number of deaths of the 215,000 Syrians currently in regime prisons. Most prisoners die owing to the lack of medical treatment, falling victim to diarrhoea and the loss of fluids, pneumonia, asthma, heart problems or small injuries that become infected due to lack of treatment. Over the past month, at least 104 people were tortured to death in Syria's prisons by the Damascus regime.

The latest report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) (S/2015/369) reported allegations of torture and ill-treatment in Al-Khatib State Security Branch and Harasta Air Force Intelligence in Damascus, and at the Air Force Intelligence Branch in Homs. Regime forces regularly carry out arbitrary detentions.

26 April A man reportedly died as a result of torture inside a regime jail in Homs province.

29 April Following an arrest 3 months ago, a man from the city of Talbisah died as a result of torture inside regime jails.

30 April In Hama province, a man from al-Latamina was tortured to death in regime prisons.

2 May	A man from Al-Maadi was tortured to death in regime prisons.
20 May	A man from Ma'arba, Fares Al Mekdaddied, died as a result of torture in a regime detention centre.
22 May	Abdo Mohammed Eido Al Semahi from Jebab in Daraa was tortured to death in a regime detention centre.
23 May	Jalal Al Kafri from Ghasum died as a result of torture in a regime detention centre.
24 May	Ahmad Al Khatib, a student from Al Jeiza, died as a result of torture in a regime detention centre.

United Nations S/2015/388

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 June 2015
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 28 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the fifteenth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) (S/2015/368):

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms the detailed positions that it has previously brought to the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in identical letters responding to the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014). It also wishes to emphasize the following points.

1. It is clear that the bias against the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the ongoing efforts to tarnish its image and hold it responsible for everything that is happening in Syria have become a persistent feature of the monthly reports being issued by the Secretariat on the humanitarian situation in Syria. That situation serves the narrow agendas of certain States, whose highest officials, notably in the regimes of Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, have repeated declared that they are doing everything in their power to harm Syria, undermine its sovereignty and diminish its regional and international role. They have sought to do so by providing direct and open support to such armed terrorist groups as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front, the Army of Conquest (the current guise of the Nusrah Front and terrorist organizations affiliated with Al-Qaida), the Free Army, the Army of Islam, the Islamic Front, the Levant Front and other terrorist organizations associated or affiliated with them. Such reports only serve the interests of the terrorists and the crimes that they are committing across Syria.

2. In that regard, Syria rejects such deliberate distortions of the facts as those contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report, regarding what is really happening in Idlib, Jisr al-Shughur and other cities and regions. The truth, which does not suit certain parties, is that attacks by armed terrorist groups under the leadership of the Nusrah Front against such cities as Idlib, Jisr al-Shughur, Ishtabraq and Kassab have benefited from intensive logistical and fire support from the Turkish Army. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has kept the Security Council informed of these crimes through official letters, letters that the author of the report has

Please recycle

deliberately ignored in order to distort the facts and provide cover for the terrorist crimes that are the root cause of the tragedy taking place in Syria. Not a single one of the reports issued by the United Nations Secretariat has noted that the displacements and sieges are being caused by terrorists supported by Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, who are attacking and occupying Syrian cities and towns and displacing their populations.

3. Syria finds it deplorable that the facts continue to be falsified in order to mislead international opinion regarding the course of events in Syria. For over a year, the authors of the reports have persisted in basing their reports on information obtained from sources that have been proven by actual events not only to lack credibility, but to have fabricated and altered events to serve their politicized agendas. To mention just one example, the draft report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict that will be discussed in June 2015 states that such armed terrorist groups as the Free Army, ISIL and the Nusrah Front are using children as young as 15 years old to collect information and document incidents in exchange for salaries of $400 per month. Given that children are providing the accounts of the events, and are being motivated to do so by money, we leave it to the reader to imagine how shaky must be the content and veracity of such reports, which do not address those facts.

4. The report's focus on undocumented details and refusal to go into the root causes of the crisis in Syria are designed to divert the gaze of the international community from the true facts about cities such as Tadmur (Palmyra) in Homs governorate; Raqqah, Adra al-'Ummaliyah and the city of Ma'lula in Rif Dimashq governorate; Shaykh Miskin in Dar'a governorate; Kassab in Ladhiqiyah governorate; villages in Hasakah and Raqqah governorates; and other Syrian cities, villages and districts. Those cities had been secure and stable until they began to be attacked by foreign mercenary groups and terrorists of various nationalities under the direction of certain States. The groups have used the most up-to-date deadly weapons to wreak havoc, loot, slaughter, murder, abduct and take captives. These terrorist crimes have brought about the forced mass displacement of thousands of citizens from the areas where the armed terrorist groups are located to safe cities, villages and areas under the protection of the State. As a result, the humanitarian situation in the host communities has worsened, increasing the burden on State institutions and the obligations and burden of United Nations agencies and other international organizations. The States supporting the armed terrorist groups bear responsibility for those additional burdens. All of this raises a question: if the authors of the report, and in particular the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, wish to see the truth come out, why do they not talk about Idlib being overrun by the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations with logistical and fire support from the Turkish regime in particular, or about the thousands of terrorists of Chechen and Turkmen origin who have been trained, armed and protected by the Turkish regime?

5. The terrorism being brought into Syria would not continue if foreign powers had not embraced the terrorist groups and covered up their war crimes against peaceful Syrians and their property and resources. The annex lists some of the crimes committed by ISIL, the Nusrah Front, the Free Army, the Army of Islam, the Army of Conquest and other armed terrorist groups.

6. From the beginning of the crisis, the armed terrorist groups have systematically targeted our Palestinian refugee brothers in Syria, attacking Palestinian camps in the north and south of the country. Over two years ago, the terrorists overran and occupied Yarmouk camp in Damascus, imposing a siege from within, in the course of which they declared open season on the lives and property of the inhabitants. As a result, 128,000 Palestinian and Syrian civilian inhabitants were displaced, and aid is being prevented from reaching those who stayed behind. In early April, on instructions from certain States, the terrorist Nusrah Front allowed ISIL terrorists to infiltrate the camp, causing humanitarian conditions in the camp to deteriorate further. In cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and other Palestinian and international organizations, the Syrian Government responded immediately to the crisis by granting free passage to civilians who wished to leave and by providing shelter and humanitarian assistance. To date, 2,550 families have fled the hell unleashed by the gangs in the camp.

7. The Syrian Government therefore reiterates its surprise at the recent outcry regarding events in the camp, in particular from certain States, above all the United States of America, which do not recognize Palestinian rights. Despite the grave nature of the events, the parties within the United Nations and the international community that are now crying over the camp did not react when the terrorist groups attacked the Palestinian camps, which are spread across Syria from the north to the south. The Syrian Government calls on the United Nations and the Security Council swiftly to prevail on Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel and Jordan to cease funding, sponsoring, supporting and training the terrorist groups, and to press them to withdraw their terrorist allies and terrorist groups from Yarmouk camp in order to safeguard the lives and security of the civilians left in the camp. Those actors should encourage efforts to reach a reconciliation agreement, and should support the work of the Government and of UNRWA — which is responsible for providing assistance to Palestine refugees — so that both can continue their joint endeavour to deliver humanitarian assistance and relief to the camp's inhabitants, instead of muzzling UNRWA when it provides the facts on the positive role being played by the Syrian Government in supporting the Palestinians and ensuring that they receive humanitarian assistance.

8. In the context of its responsibilities as a protecting State, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has facilitated the delivery of assistance to all Syrian civilians and those who enjoy the same rights. On 9 April 2015, the Government agreed to most of the requests made by the United Nations and other international organizations to deliver humanitarian assistance to hotspots in Irbin, Zamalka, Babila, Yalda, Bayt Saham and Bludan in Rif Dimashq governorate; Kafr Hamra, Ma'arrat al-Artiq, Urum, Nubul, Zahra', Afrin, Safirah and Aleppo city in Aleppo governorate; Talbisah, Kafr Nan and Dayr Ful in Homs governorate; and Ariha and Jisr al-Shughur in Idlib governorate.

9. Although the Syrian Government gave its approval to the United Nations to dispatch joint humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach places and hot spots, the United Nations has implemented only 30 per cent of those agreements as of 27 May 2015. The Syrian Government is currently considering requests to organize other new joint convoys, taking into consideration the need to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian workers, the security situation on the ground and the equitable distribution of humanitarian assistance and its successful delivery to

civilians without discrimination or distinction. The Syrian Government is therefore surprised at the double standard of the United Nations which insists on delivering assistance to particular areas that have been classified as dangerous, while at the same time claiming to be unable to deliver aid requested by the Syrian Government to other areas where the security situation is comparable.

10. Despite all this politicization of humanitarian issues, the Syrian Government acknowledges the important work being done by the United Nations and its humanitarian agencies operating in Syria. It wishes to reaffirm the plain fact that such work would not be possible without its efforts, its constructive cooperation and its considerable role in facilitating the process. During the month of April, as a result of its fruitful cooperation with the Government, the World Food Programme was able to deliver assistance inside Syrian territory to approximately 3.6 million beneficiaries. That was despite the challenges facing humanitarian work, above all inadequate funding for the 2015 Strategic Response Plan, which is as of now funded at only 17 per cent, according to the report.

11. In that connection, Syria reiterates yet again that it is the party most committed to the Syrian people and to the Palestine refugees in Syria. Despite the unilateral coercive measures imposed illegally on the Syrian people, and despite the illegal and unethical financial and economic obstacles placed in the path of Syria and its people by certain States, particularly Western and neighbouring States, the Government has continued to provide the greatest share of humanitarian, relief, living and health needs to citizens affected by the crisis across the country, without discrimination. It is deplorable that, in paragraph 41, the authors of the report inflate the numbers of people who have benefited from cross-border assistance.

12. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that the Turkish Government, which sponsors armed terrorism in Syria, has allowed thousands of trucks to enter Syrian territory illegally through crossings used by United Nations cross-border convoys. Terrorists, weapons and hazardous substances have been transported to armed terrorist groups in Syria by exploiting United Nations cross-border activities. That practice is a serious violation of Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 2165 (2014), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). In addition, it exposes United Nations convoys to multiple threats.

13. The Syrian Government reiterates that it will continue to cooperate with the United Nations to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all of its citizens who have been affected by the crisis, wherever they may be, without discrimination, in accordance with the guiding principles for humanitarian emergency assistance set forth in General Assembly resolution 46/182, particularly respect for Syrian sovereignty and territorial integrity, a principle that was underscored in Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014). The annex lists examples of humanitarian assistance that was delivered thanks to the facilitation provided by the Syrian Government in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. It also lists assistance delivered provided by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

14. Certain States have persisted in supporting terrorism and concocting misleading terminology that has no precedent in international relations and international law, such as the term "moderate armed opposition" to describe terrorist groups that wreak destruction and death, and the term "non-State armed groups". By blurring such terms, the authors of the report have gone against law, custom and

schools of political thought across the spectrum. Political opposition can only be peaceful. It should comply with laws and regulations. It should struggle by means of ideas and words. It should build the State and its institutions rather than destroy them. Arms should only be borne in accordance with laws and regulations in force. The effort to confuse these terms and concepts is nothing more than an attempt to justify certain States' intervention in Syria's internal affairs, the imposition of their agendas on the Syrian people and their continued sponsorship of terrorism in Syria.

15. Syria also deplores the fact that Secretariat officials have included in the report abhorrent terms that convey discord, division, extremism and blind zealotry, in an effort to distort the true nature of the situation in Syria. Such expressions portray in confessional and sectarian terms what is in fact a war on terrorism and armed terrorist groups. That reading is contrary to both the facts on the ground and values and culture of the Syrian people that are deeply rooted in ages past.

16. The Government is surprised at the claims in paragraph 34 of the report stating that the United Nations continued to face challenges with visas for international staff members. That deliberate exaggeration is intended to cast in a negative light the Government's processing of applications for new visas and visa renewals for United Nations staff members. The figures show that the Syrian Government has approved over 94 per cent of the various types of applications, including visas and residency stamps, as of 30 April 2015.

17. The Syrian Government's ongoing actions have stemmed from its awareness of the constitutional and legal responsibilities incumbent upon it as a State, and are in response to the crimes of armed terrorist groups financed, sponsored and trained abroad. Those actions are intended to protect our peaceful citizens. That is contrary to what has been stated in reports submitted to certain United Nations agencies or in some cases by United Nations officials themselves, and contrary to the claims and accusations levelled by certain parties as part of an effort to effect regime change in Syria by any means possible, including by turning the facts upside down and enlisting terrorism in support of that goal. In its war against terrorism today, the Government of Syria is fighting on behalf of not only the Syrian people, but also the peoples of neighbouring States and of the entire world. It does so in defence of the values of humanity, justice, freedom, dignity and the rule of law, and against the evils of blind terrorism and extremism and a corrosive, obscurantist ideology.

18. As it has done in the past, Syria reaffirms its support for any genuine international effort aimed at countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, provided that, in doing so, every effort is made to safeguard civilian lives and respect national sovereignty, Syrian territorial integrity, United Nations resolutions and international instruments. The so-called "war against terrorism" that has been orchestrated by certain States for close to a year now has not achieved any of its purported goals. On the contrary, it has allowed the terrorist organization ISIL and its satellites and allied groups to expand, move around and spread with complete freedom, not only in Syria and Iraq, but in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, and certain African States. Indeed, the threat from these terrorist groups has even extended to the very Saudi regime that has given refuge to extremist terrorist groups and provided support and funding for these criminal gangs. The international community must therefore stand resolutely in the face of the States — above all the regimes of Qatar, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Jordan — that are supporting and funding terrorism and

armed terrorist groups, whose rage is spreading like wildfire across the region and the world.

19. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its position that the crisis in Syria requires a political solution based on dialogue among Syrians under Syrian leadership without any outside intervention.

I should be grateful if you would have present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the identical letters dated 28 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Crimes committed by ISIL, the Nusrah Front, the Free Army, the Army of Islam, the Army of Conquest and other armed terrorist groups ignored by the authors of the report

- On 31 March 2015, an armed terrorist group perpetrated a barbarous attack on the village of Mab'ujah in the countryside of Salamiyah in Hama governorate. In the course of this despicable massacre, they shot or cut the throats of more than 60 peaceful civilian villagers, most of them women and children, and seriously injured dozens of civilians. A gang from the terrorist group abducted some of the villagers after violating the sanctity of their homes, which they looted, vandalized and burned.
- On 1 April 2015, hundreds of ISIL terrorists, in coordination with terrorists from the Nusrah Front, entered the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in order to commit more crimes against the people of the camp and induce them to leave, and to undermine the local truce agreement that was supposed to take effect on Friday, 3 April 2015. In so doing, they put the lives of Palestinians and Syrians living in the camp at risk, using them as human shields.
- On 2 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired shells at the Tadamun neighbourhood in Damascus, injuring three civilians.
- On 4 April 2015, armed terrorist groups shelled the water resources building in Harasta in Rif Dimashq, without injury.
- On 5 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired four mortar shells at the electric company in the Abbasiyin neighbourhood in Damascus, without injury.
- On 5 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the second Ashrafiyah roundabout, Old City, Bab al-Nasr and Jamiliyah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, injuring six civilians.
- On 5 April 2015, armed terrorist groups targeted the electricity station near the village of Musayfirah in the city of Dar'a, cutting off electricity and water from Dar'a governorate.
- On 6 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired three mortar shells that fell near the French Hospital in Damascus, with no injuries.
- On 6 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the Iwa' school in the camp for internally displaced persons in Rif Dimashq, killing a civilian and a child, and injuring five children with shrapnel.
- On 6 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired a missile at the Jaramana fuel station in the Kashkul neighbourhood in Rif Dimashq, injuring 12 civilians.
- On 6 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired missiles at the city of Salamiyah in Homs governorate, killing seven civilians and injuring 14 others, including women and children.

- On 6 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Jam'iyyat al-Zahra', Old City, Nayrab camp, Furqan, Salah al-Din, Ansari, Hatab Square, and Hamidiyah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, injuring nine civilians.
- On 7 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the Fayha' sports complex in Damascus, without injury.
- On 7 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Ramusah, Bab al-Faraj, Hamidiyah, Bab al-Nasr and Mogambo neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing five civilians and injuring 13 others, including women and children.
- On 8 April 2015, armed terrorist groups in Duma gardens directed sniper fire at civilian vehicles travelling on the Damascus-Homs highway, injuring three civilians.
- On 8 April 2015, a suicide terrorist blew himself up with a car bomb near the village of Barad in Hama governorate, injuring a number of civilians.
- On 8 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired six mortar shells at an electricity station in Ladhiqiyah, causing material damage only.
- On 8 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Bab al-Faraj, Aqabah and Hamidiyah neighbourhoods, killing six civilians and causing material damage.
- On 9 April 2015, a suicide terrorist blew himself up in Abbasiyin in the Adawi neighbourhood in Damascus opposite the Hayat hospital, killing four civilians and causing material damage.
- On 9 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Bandarah, Bab al-Faraj, Hamdaniyah, Jamiliyah, Sab' Baharat and Sulaymaniyah neighbourhoods, injuring eight civilians.
- On 10 April 2015, armed terrorist groups detonated a car bomb in the Zahra' neighbourhood in Homs, killing a civilian and injuring 10 others.
- On 10 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired gas canisters at the Maysalun, Shaykhayn roundabout and Sulaymaniyah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing two women, injuring four others, and causing material damage.
- On 10 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired 25 mortar shells at the city of Sanamayn, injuring three civilians and causing extensive material damage.
- On 11 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired three mortar shells at an electric company and a textile workshop in Damascus, causing material damage without injury.
- On 11 April 2015, armed terrorist groups detonated an explosive device that was attached to a minibus in Homs, killing one of the civilian passengers and injuring 11 others.
- On 11 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells, gas canisters and locally made missiles at the Kalas Street and Sayyid Ali neighbourhoods, and a youth centre in the Aziziyah neighbourhood in Aleppo, killing 14 civilians and injuring 48 others, including women and children.

- On 11 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired a gas canister missile at the Zubayr mosque in Aleppo, injuring three civilians.
- On 12 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Aziziyah, Hamdaniyah, Bab al-Faraj, Salah al-Din and Safirah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, injuring 13 civilians.
- On 13 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Bustan al-Zahrah, Hamdaniyah, Maysalun, Khalidiyah, Suryan al-Jadidah, Aziziyah and Jam'iyat al-Zahra' neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing three children and injuring eight others, including women and children.
- On 14 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at Suq al-Hal in Damascus, killing a civilian and injuring 12 others.
- On 15 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Maysalun, Urqub, A'zamiyah and Khalidiyah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing two civilians and injuring 23 others, including women and children.
- On 16 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells around the village containing the internally displaced persons camp in Rif Dimashq, injuring nine civilians.
- On 17 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Maysalun, Khalidiyah, Bab al-Nasr, Nile Street, Bab al-Faraj and Sayf al-Dawlah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing a civilian and injuring nine others, including women and children.
- On 19 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the city of Ariha in Idlib governorate, killing two civilians and injuring 38 others.
- On 20 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the village of Lubayn in Shahba district, Suwayda' governorate, injuring three civilians.
- On 21 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired explosive bullets at random at a commercial neighbourhood in Damascus, injuring three civilians and two children.
- On 21 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the Biruni hospital in the city of Harasta in Rif Dimashq, injuring a civilian.
- On 21 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the cities of Jisr al-Shughur and Ariha, killing seven people and injuring a number of others.
- On 22 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the internally displaced persons camp in Rif Dimashq, injuring 11 civilians, including women and children.
- On 22 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Salah al-din, Jamiliyah, Ramusah and Sayf al-Dawlah neighbourhoods, killing two civilians and injuring 16 others.

- On 23 April 2015, armed terrorist groups targeted a bus on the Ziyarah-Birkah highway in Hama governorate, killing five civilians and injuring 12 others, including six children.

- On 26 April 2015, armed terrorist groups, including the Nusrah Front, carried out a massacre in the town of Ishtabraq in the Jisr al-Shughur countryside. The terrorists slaughtered approximately 200 civilians, most of them women and children, and left the bodies of the victims strewn across the countryside.

- On 25 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Nile Street, Maydan and Azamiyah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing three civilians and injuring 15 others, including women and children.

- On 26 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Bab al-Faraj, Mashariqah, Sulayman al-Halabi and Suq al-Intaj neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing three civilians and injuring 41 others, including women and children.

- On 28 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Ashrafiyah, Khalidiyah, Janudiyah, Maydan and Hatab Square neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing three and injuring 16 others, including women and children.

- During the period from 21 March 2015 to 21 April 2015, the total number of civilian victims of terrorist acts, including victims of bombings and shells, in all the governorates other than Raqqah and Idlib, was 199 civilians killed, including 32 children, and 462 injured, including 72 children.

Examples of humanitarian assistance that the United Nations and international organizations, acting in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, were able to deliver thanks to the facilitation of the Syrian Government, and assistance that was provided by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian aid (food and non-food aid and medical assistance), provided from inside Syrian territory by United Nations organizations, to various governorates, including Hasakah, Aleppo, Dar'a, and Hama, but not to Idlib, Raqqah or Dayr al-Zawr governorates. A total of 376,465 food parcels were delivered, including 33,238 parcels to Hama and its countryside, 66,249 parcels to Rif Dimashq, 23,916 parcels to Dar'a and its countryside, 57,756 parcels to Aleppo and its countryside, 16,938 parcels to Hasakah and its countryside, and 25,393 parcels to Qunaytirah and its countryside.

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian aid provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross from inside Syrian territory to most governorates, including Rif Dimashq, Hama and Dar'a. A total of 85,075 food parcels were distributed. A total of 17,716 parcels were distributed to the Rif Dimashq, Damascus, Homs and Aleppo governorates from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian aid (food and non-food aid and medical assistance) provided by foreign non-governmental organizations operating in Syria to Aleppo, Rif Dimashq, Dar'a, Damascus, Homs and Suwayda' governorates. A total of 11,627 food parcels were distributed. That number is in addition to the health-care parcels that were distributed in many governorates, including Aleppo, Hama, Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Homs and Suwayda'.

- Some 2,454,415 Syrian beneficiaries (490,883 families) received food parcels provided by the United Nations through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, a welcome increase in comparison to the month of March. On the other hand, some 1,569,025 Syrian beneficiaries (313,805 families) received food parcels provided by the United Nations through non-governmental organizations. The total number of the beneficiaries of such assistance provided by the United Nations inside Syrian territory thus stands at 3.5 million for the month of April.

- An air bridge has been set up to deliver humanitarian assistance (basic foodstuffs, medical assistance, dialysis equipment and insecticides) provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross to civilians trapped in the city of Dayr al-Zawr, where 400,000 people are under siege.

- In paragraph 41 of the report (S/2015/368), it is noted that 2.4 million persons received food aid. That figure continues to be grossly exaggerated and is meant to cover up the ineffectiveness of the cross-border delivery of assistance. In fact, according to the sparse information provided by the United Nations, some 548,650 persons (approximately 109,730 families), according to the United Nations, received food aid in April. We reiterate that the United Nations cannot verify the delivery of that assistance to the affected civilian

recipients who deserve it. The actual fact, denied by some, is that it falls into the hands of terrorists in the targeted areas.

- Starting from 3 April 2015, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has responded to emergency needs by delivering and distributing some 9,000 food parcels to Palestinian refugees and the host communities in areas, including Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham, to which they have been forcibly displaced from Yarmouk camp, which was overrun by armed terrorist groups, mainly the ISIL organization. Those families were given further humanitarian assistance (food and non-food aid and health-care supplies) provided by the United Nations and other international organizations such as UNRWA.

- We again highlight what the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has done to respond to the emergency needs of thousands of families in Ariha and Jisr al-Shughur in the Idlib countryside that had fled Idlib city at the end of March after it had been overrun by the Nusrah Front and its terrorist partners, masquerading under the new alias "Army of Conquest". Those families were given humanitarian assistance (food and non-food aid and health-care supplies) provided by the United Nations and other international organizations.

- During the period from 1 March 2015 to 24 April 2015, the Ministry of Health approved requests from international organizations to transport medicines and medical assistance (medicines, vaccines and medical supplies and equipment), including 33 cross-border missions and 263 missions inside Syria. The missions were organized in cooperation with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNRWA, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the Syrian Arab Red Cross. They extended to most of the Syrian governorates, including areas classified as hard to reach in Rif Dimashq (Duma), the Dar'a countryside, Suwayda', Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Hasakah.

- The World Health Organization was able to deliver medical assistance and provide medical treatment to 3.3 million beneficiaries, including in hot spots. The Government also approved a request from the World Health Organization to deliver dialysis kits to the Duma region in Rif Dimashq on 5 May 2015 (dialysis machines with all their accessories and 250 filters, in addition to medical supplies consisting of children's vaccines, insulin for those suffering from juvenile diabetes, psychiatric support materials and baby milk).

- The Syrian Government renewed its approval for the World Food Programme to bring humanitarian assistance through the Nusaybin crossing on the Syrian-Turkish border, in order to allow 46,000 food parcels to be brought into Hasakah governorate, and to bring in 105 metric tons of date biscuits to be distributed to schoolchildren during April 2015.